



Office Distribution
4-13-48

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release APRIL 14, 1948.

RAT CONTROL CLINICS BENEFICIAL

Local rat control committees in the eastern states are attending clinics to out-smart the rats, Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug said today as he announced the clinics as a part of the National Urban Rat Control Program. Similar schools will be announced for other areas.

Citizen committees, public health officers, agricultural workers, food handlers, representatives of interested industries and others have been invited to learn about the rat, his habits and the best methods for his control. Local rat control experts and scientists of the Fish and Wildlife Service will lead the meetings.

"The rat, because he has learned to let man provide him with food and shelter, has become smarter than most and can not be classed as a 'dumb' animal," says Hamilton M. Warren, chairman of the National Committee for Rat Control and vice president of the National Carbon Company of New York. "These clinics offer the opportunity to learn how to consistently outwit the rat and save a large part of the two billion dollars rats cost this nation each year."

The clinics offer a meeting for the exchange of ideas and a discussion of problems, as well as a field demonstration in the best methods of control and killing rats.

Baltimore's two day clinic covered sanitation, refuse disposal and dump management, rat control ordinances and their enforcement, ratproofing, the rat control expert, eradication and general topics on long-range control. All of these elements of an effective program were then demonstrated by field visits.

Clinics have been held in Framingham, New Bedford, Waltham, Malden and Quincy, Massachusetts; Baltimore, Maryland; Philadelphia and Erie, Pa.; Columbus, Cleveland and Findlay, Ohio; Providence, R. I.; Schenectady and Rochester, N. Y.

Five more clinics are scheduled for Massachusetts, Salem, April 15; Ayer, April 20; Worcester, April 22; Springfield, April 27; and Pittsfield, April 29.

x x x